

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, the Abstract has been corrected by capitalizing and italicizing *Lactobacillus*. The abstract has also been placed on a separate page as required by the Examiner.

In the specification, at page 5, line 15, the article by David Hutcheson, PhD has been replaced by a similar article by David Hutcheson PhD which has a citation which allows the public to retrieve the article.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-4 as being indefinite.

The claims have been amended to recite that the bacteria are colony forming units as suggested by the Examiner.

Reconsideration is also respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-9, 19 and 22 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

A declaration by one of the co-inventors recites that she has been selling the compositions of the patent for years with no problem from her customers. It is contended that if the product did not improve cattle feed utilization, that customers would have complained.

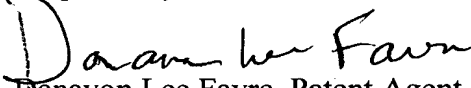
Reconsideration is also respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-8, 19 and 22 as being anticipated by WO 96/17525 [N].

The reference teaches the use of an obligate anaerobe in cattle feed. The rejected claims have been amended to recite that the composition of the present invention is free of an obligate anaerobe.

Reconsideration is also respectfully requested of the rejection of the pending claims as being obvious over WO 96/17525 [N]. The reference is directed to a feed supplement containing obligate anaerobe and the advantages one achieves by reducing acidity in the

digestive tract of an animal. The present claims have been amended to recited that the composition of the present invention is free of an obligate anaerobe.

Respectfully submitted,


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